

Marian Chace Foundation Lecture: Introduction of Dr. Sharon W. Goodill

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Published online: 3 April 2017
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I'm here to introduce you to Dr. Sharon W. Goodill, the Marian Chace Foundation speaker this afternoon. There is almost no one whose praises I would rather sing. In her commitment to a thriving dance/movement therapy (DMT) profession, Sherry is the right speaker in this future-forward bookend of a year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Sherry moves the profession forward. It is an honor to introduce her as a professional leader whom I also have the good fortune to know as a colleague and dear friend.

On Sherry's door at Drexel University, where she is a clinical full professor and chair of the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, is a quote by George Bernard Shaw. An excerpt from the quote reads:

This is the true joy of life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one.... I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.... for the harder I work, the more I live.

Sherry models hard work to those around her, from whom she expects the same. She encourages our best, and we often find ourselves rising to meet her challenge and accomplishing more than we had planned.

Sherry has served us all on the ADTA Board for a total of 19 years. As ADTA committee and board colleagues you know how she has supported us with her systems thinking and clarity. I suspect that the board may still reflexively channel Sherry at times when it encounters gnarly problems.

For 10 years she served as chair of the Committee on Approval during which she instituted Alternate Route course approval. In 2011, when Sherry entered the ADTA

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presidency, she said to me, “I take this as an opportunity to learn about leadership, when everyone thought she already had leadership in the bag. Her presidency was guided by the Vision 2016 strategic initiatives, which were dedicated to “optimizing the vitality of dance/movement therapy careers.” To this purpose, her legacy includes serving as liaison in a developing relationship with the National Institute for Arts in Health in the Military, skillfully navigating with us, our mobile relationship with counseling, providing consultative support to state licensure efforts, drafting and tasking white papers, championing the development of the ADTA webinar initiative, and spearheading a DMT practice analysis.

Sherry holds a Ph.D. in medical psychology with a concentration in mind-body studies from Union Institute, earned while working full time and parenting Libbie and Claire, young adolescents at the time. A researcher and scholar, Sherry was awarded funding in the first rounds of exploratory research grants from the Office of Alternative Medicine within the National Institute of Health. In 2005 Sherry authored the pioneering text, *An Introduction to Medical Dance/Movement Therapy: Healthcare in Motion*. She has since made numerous contributions to the body of DMT and creative arts therapies professional literature. She serves on the editorial board of *The Arts in Psychotherapy: An International Journal* and previously on the *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*.

Many of you, students past and present, know Sherry best from her 36 years as a DMT educator: challenging your critical thinking; engaging you in learning collaborations; and supporting you in resourcing your own vitality and talents. You may know her as students in the former Hahnemann, now Drexel University, DMT graduate program, as students in the Hahnemann-affiliated programs in Israel and London, or as participants in assessment and medical DMT workshops here in the U.S and in Australia, Germany, Korea, and Belgium.

While effectively carrying multiple roles and responsibilities, Sherry has a sense of proportion. In the academic setting, she is fond of saying, “there is no such thing as an educational emergency.” She understands this from sharing her life with her husband John, a palliative care physician who knows well true matters of life and death. Sherry does not shy from the dark and difficult either. She is a frequent voice for social justice.

And there is poetry in Sherry. She embraces the rich language of metaphor.

Sherry is a dancer. She has continued for 34 years to dance and perform with a circle of women in Wilmington. Watch as she dances at the banquet tomorrow evening. As one of her students once said, “Sherry can dance me under the table anytime.” She is passionate about the art in DMT at the same time that she asserts its science.

In honor of Sherry’s love of metaphor and dance, I asked a few people, “If Sherry were a dance, what dance would she be?”. I leave you with Cathy McCoubrey’s apt metaphor: “For me, flamenco crystallizes Sherry’s dynamic qualities, with her strong and supple backbone as a leader, the groundedness of her pragmatism, and the complex rhythms and spatial pathways of her intellect and vision, all performed with heart” (C. McCoubrey, personal communication, October 13, 2016). And from her daughter Libbie, “My mom would be the improvisational warm-up stretches and movements across the floor. She has spent a lifetime waking me and others up to

new ideas and new ways of seeing, and she in turn loves to be awakened” (E. LaFontaine, personal communication, October 16, 2016).

Of course, there is much more that many of us could say. Did I ever tell you about the time we were in *The Vagina Monologues* together?

But now let’s listen, as Sherry awakens and leads us forward into the years beyond 50.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The author declares that the author has no conflict of interest.

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MMT, BC-DMT, NCC, LPC has served as the director of the master’s program in Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling at Drexel University for the past twelve years and in several other educational roles prior to that time. Ellen has more than thirty years dance/movement therapy education, supervision, and clinical practice experience. Her clinical work has primarily involved adults experiencing anxiety, depression, chronic pain, or with histories of trauma. She currently maintains a small practice in the Parkway Health and Wellness Clinic of the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Drexel. Ellen has been active in the American Dance Therapy Association. She served on the Board of Directors, as chair of the Committee on Approval, chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee, and currently serves on the Approved Programs Education Subcommittee. Ellen is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association. She frequently presents professionally in both local and national venues.